

LUIGI CAGNOLARO (\*) & CARLO VIOLANI (\*\*)

INTRODUCTION TO THE ANASTATIC REPRINT  
OF « VERTEBRATORUM SYNOPSIS... »  
BY E. CORNALIA (1849)

**Abstract.** — A brief comment is given about the anastatic reprint of the very rare work « Vertebratorum Synopsis... » by Emilio CORNALIA (1849), including the recent status of the taxa described as new.

*Key words:* Osculati, Cornalia, Vertebrata, Americas.

**Riassunto.** — *Premessa alla ristampa anastatica della « Vertebratorum Synopsis... », di Emilio Cornalia (1849).*

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Civic Museum of Natural History of Milan, it seems appropriate to publish the anastatic reprint of the first edition of Emilio CORNALIA's « Vertebratorum Synopsis... » (1849). Emilio Cornalia was director of Milan Museum from 1866 to 1882, and was one of its most eminent scientists.

In the present work, which first appeared independently as a pamphlet, Cornalia published the catalogue of the vertebrates collected by Gaetano Osculati during his travels in North and South America (1846-1848), adding also the original descriptions of some new taxa. The work, printed in Monza (Latin: *Modoetia*), is extremely rare and we are aware of only two copies of it now extant. The copy here reproduced is the one preserved in the Library of the Civic Museum of Natural History of Milan; the lithographic plate has been slightly reduced in size for typographical reasons (base of the figures 140 mm, instead of 198 mm as in the original); the text print is in original size; the original pages measure mm 180 × 275-280.

The « Vertebratorum Synopsis » was republished at a later date, with considerable text variations, as an appendix to both the editions of OSCULATI's « Esplorazione... » (1850; 1854) and it has been frequently quoted under this form by several authors. The anastatic reprint of the original edition will provide scholars with an important document for a more precise critical investigation in nomenclature and taxonomic problems.

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(\*) Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Corso Venezia 55, 20121 Milano.

(\*\*) Dipartimento di Biologia Animale dell'Università, Piazza Botta, 27100 Pavia, and collaborator of Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano.

Gaetano Osculati (San Giorgio al Lambro, now in commune of Biassono (Milan), 1808 - Milan 1984) studied Medicine for two years and attained the rank of captain in the mercantile marine. In 1831 he started a series of adventurous travels and explorations, first in Egypt and Middle East, then in Asia and in North and South America. Finally he travelled in China in 1857. During his explorations Osculati collected a great quantity of ethnographic and naturalistic materials; the part acquired by Milan Museum was unfortunately destroyed in the Museum's fire in 1943.

In the « *Vertebratorum Synopsis...* » Cornalia described the following taxa as new:

MAMMALIA: *Vespertilio Osculati* = *Myotis nigricans nigricans* (Schinz, 1821) according to Cabrera. *Vespertilio quixensis* Osculati, quoted by CORNALIA (page 3) as a synonym of the preceding, should be considered as a *nomen nudum*. - *Lepus De-Filippi* = *Sylvilagus brasiliensis defilippi* (Cornalia). - *Bradypus trivittatus* = *Bradypus infuseatus infuseatus* Wagler, 1841.

AVES: *Thamnophilus quixensis* and *Th. rufiventer* are described, somehow doubtfully, as separate taxa. In reality they are the male (*quixensis*) and the female (*rufiventer*) of the same Formicariid species, now *Microrhopias q. quixensis* (Cornalia). Strangely enough, both their diagnoses and names were completely suppressed in the subsequent editions of « *Vertebratorum Synopsis* » published as an appendix to OSCULATI's « *Esplorazione* ».

REPTILIA: *Podoenemis sextuberculata*, now valid. - *Pentonix americana* = *Pelomedusa subrufa* (Lacép., 1788), presumably an unexplained confusion based on a young specimen of this African species. - The following reptiles are listed as new, but not described, and therefore they are *nomina nuda*: *Coronella Bonapartii* De Fil., *Boa braehyura* De Fil. and *Trigonocephalus savianus* De Fil.

AMPHIBIA: *Phriniscus igneseens* = *Atelopus igneseens* (Cornalia).

PISCES: *Vandellia gigantea* Cornalia is figured and described as new (page 15), though doubtfully, on a single specimen in alcohol; most likely it is an earlier name, now *nomen oblitum*, for *Vandellia wieneri* Pellegrin 1909 from Rio Napo. - Other fish taxa are listed as new, but they are probably *nomina nuda*: *Labrax Osculati* De Fil., *Haemulon faestivus* De Fil., *Pomacentrus Ranzani* De Fil., *Chrysophris cornutus* De Fil., *Catostomus Heckelii* De Fil. In our copy of the « *Vertebratorum Synopsis* » the authorship of the species « *Haemulon laetus* Cuv. et Val.» (page 8) has been deleted and corrected in pen as « *De Filippi* »; this is presumably another *nomen nudum*.

#### REFERENCES

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